

REMARKS

The Office Action of 04/23/2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

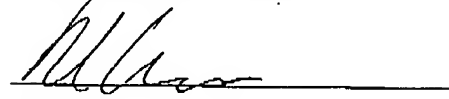
Claims 1 and 4 were rejected as being unpatentable over Marusawa in view of Maruhashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration respectfully requested.

Maruhashi teaches, in an arrangement having opposed disks of hard magnetic material and soft magnetic material, replacing the disk of soft magnetic material with a disk of hard magnetic material and eliminating the former disk of hard magnetic material. The disks are formed separately from an assembly in which they are assembled. (See US Patent 5,419,947 referenced by Maruhashi.)

Applying a similar substitution to the primary reference Marusawa would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In particular, neither reference teaches or suggests a specific hard magnetic material suitable for use in the fabrication technique of Marusawa. There is no evidence that such a material would have been known to or readily ascertainable by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 07/18/2007